



SAN MARINO

**TERRA PERPETUAE
LIBERTATIS**

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An illustration of “La Serenissima Repubblica di San Marino” situated on Mount Titano. This autonomous territory spans a total of around 61 square kilometres, has 34,000 inhabitants and is one of the least populous states belonging to the United Nations. Nevertheless, the impact of the virus, especially during the first wave of the pandemic was significant, so much so that the Republic was forced to close the schools and issue bans on public and private gatherings even before these were introduced in Italy.

Life and the pandemic in the autonomous enclave of San Marino

- ▶ San Marino has tackled the second wave of the pandemic with containment measures that have differed from those in Italy.
- ▶ Initiatives even include plans to oblige anti-vaxxers to pay for their own medical treatment.
- ▶ Restaurants, sports centres and museums have stayed open with the aim of reviving the economy.
- ▶ Tourism is an important source of revenue for the small nation that today is suffering as a result of Italy's travel restrictions.
- ▶ The greatest impact has resulted from the Italian government's decision to prevent the usual flow of visitors from neighbouring regions in Italy.

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The presentation of an exhibition at the Palazzo Pubblico. Events like this, which are currently banned in Italy, are authorized in San Marino but with specific limits relating to the number of participants and social distancing rules.



Safety measures on a Bonelli Bus company bus. Bonelli is the only transport company, together with Benedettini S.p.A. to provide regular connections between Rimini (Italy) and the Republic of San Marino also during the pandemic. There has been no railway since 1944 when the line was destroyed by bombardments during the Second World War.



An exhibitor selling homemade masks in her kiosk at the Christmas festival "Il Natale delle meraviglie" (The Christmas of Wonders).



Synchronized swimmers Jasmine Zonzini and Jasmine Verbena pose in their competition costumes after a training session ahead of the Tokyo Olympics that were rescheduled to take place next year. The first official competition they took part in after the initial months of the lockdown was held in August.

The Republic of San Marino's first statute dates back to 1295 and decrees the nation's independent status, which has been proudly maintained and defended until today. The autonomous character of this atypical state entity, today a sovereign enclave within Italian territory, has become more evident during the time of Covid. After an initial phase of total lockdown in line with the restrictions in Italy, the so-called Terra Perpetuae Libertatis changed direction in the autumn by introducing different rules for containing the virus: restaurants, sports centres and cultural venues in the territory reopened, with the hope of improving the State's financial fortunes and retaking full control of the situation, thanks to the republic's limited geographical size.

The unpredictability of the pandemic emergency, on one hand, has highlighted San Marino's legislative sovereignty, but on the other, it has pulled back the curtain on the close relationship that this miniscule republic has with Italy and the huge impact the decisions of the neighbouring government has on its economy and its tourist lifeblood. Italy's restrictions today forbid inhabitants of the regions that border San Marino to take walks or go for a drink in the republic, and this has had obvious repercussions on the economic fabric of the enclave. In the absence of foreign visitors, the republic has discovered how reliant it is on the mood of a disoriented Italian government, in spite of its own local charismatic autonomous administration that recently authored legislation to oblige anti-vaxxers to personally pay for their own medical treatment.



The parish of saints Peter, Marino and Leone in Murata (San Marino), belonging to the diocese of San Marino Montefeltro, one of the few that has a jurisdiction that spans two nations: Italy and San Marino.



One of San Marino's numerous shops specialized in Airsoft equipment: these are very popular with Italian Airsoft enthusiasts because of their competitive prices. Although the local government has allowed them to open to the public, these commercial activities have taken heavy hits to their earnings due to the measures introduced by the Conte government in Italy that banned travel to San Marino from neighbouring Italian regions.



Michele, a former chief scout, has long been passionate about nature. The pandemic has not really had an effect on his lifestyle. He lives in the countryside and often spends his free time looking after his vegetable patch and his plants.



Images on a laptop at a Faculty at San Marino University show an individual with a body temperature of 38.1°. The measurement took place thanks to the university's thermo scanner video cameras. This safety measure to control access to the classrooms was installed in October.



One of the most striking differences with Italy concerning anti-Covid measures regards sports centres and gyms in San Marino. During the second wave, the San Marino government did not demand the closure of any weight training rooms and exercising in gyms is permitted.



A hostess and a steward at "Il Natale delle Meraviglie" (the Christmas of Wonders), the event organized in spite of the health emergency thanks to the Secretary of State for Tourism who provided sufficient staff for the event to respect the Covid safety measures.



The geography of the republic offers opportunities to practice various outdoor activities that help mitigate the psychological impact of the restrictions. In this area cycling is particularly popular. It is no coincidence that there is a San Marino stage in the Giro d'Italia cycling race.



San Francesco Pinacoteca Museum. Unlike the situation in Italy, which has required the closure of museum structures until 15 January, those in San Marino remained open to the public during the second wave of the pandemic, in spite of restrictions and norms that demand limited admission.



A man takes a photo of the panorama. Tourism is an important source of revenue for the miniscule Republic. In the absence of foreign visitors due to the pandemic, the restrictions imposed by the Italian government, which does not allow travel between San Marino and neighbouring Italian regions, the enclave is enduring significant economic repercussions.



Orietta Ceccoli, president of the female wing of Società Unione Mutuo Soccorso (SUMS), an association that helps San Marino families suffering with economic hardship. Orietta is also the author of a study into poverty in San Marino, she has recently been analysing the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus emergency.



A Christmas event in the historic centre of San Marino. In spite of the health emergency, the event "Il Natale delle Meraviglie" (Christmas of Wonders) is taking place, but in compliance with the Covid safety measures. Following a loosening of restrictions in the summer and early autumn, the San Marino government reinstated the requirement for everybody to wear masks outdoors.



A football pitch stands empty and unused. In San Marino the state decrees suspended all sporting events and competitions, authorizing only federal competitions and training sessions.



In addition to introducing remote learning, to limit the spread of the virus, the University of San Marino only allows the use of study rooms to a limited number of students based on the space available.



The manager of a shop that sells liqueurs in the historic centre. Because of the low takings in recent months he has decided not to open over the Christmas period until the Feast of the Epiphany on 6 January. Nevertheless, an agreement between San Marino's Secretary of State and the Italian Foreign Minister means that the inhabitants of Italy's Marche and Emilia Romagna regions can visit the enclave between 21 December and 6 January even though inter-regional travel will not be permitted in Italy during that period.



Sergeant Davide Battistini of the Guardia di Rocca, the San Marino armed force whose tasks range from patrolling the state's borders to providing security services at the Palazzo Pubblico.



A small group of youngsters sit in the outdoor area of a bar in the centre of San Marino. Unlike the situation in Italy, restaurants and cafes have remained open to the public. The small number of activities present in the territory means that it is much easier to monitor the behaviour of staff and customers, ensuring that they all respect the safety measures.



Loretta Menicucci runs a beauty salon in Dogana (Republic of San Marino), as well as being president of UNAS (National Union of Artisans and SMEs). Following the ban introduced during the first wave, San Marino's salons reopened to the public on 18 May. The reopening did not result in any new clusters thanks to the efforts of staff and their clients to respect the safety measures.



A view over San Marino from Mount Titano. The miniscule republic spans a total of 61 square kilometres and has 34,000 inhabitants.



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